

Vietnamese Buddhists



Quick Facts

Population: 65,000,000

Vietnam: 64,000,000

USA: 1,000,000

Cambodia: 600,000

Australia: 120,000

Religion: Buddhism

Believers: 0.18%

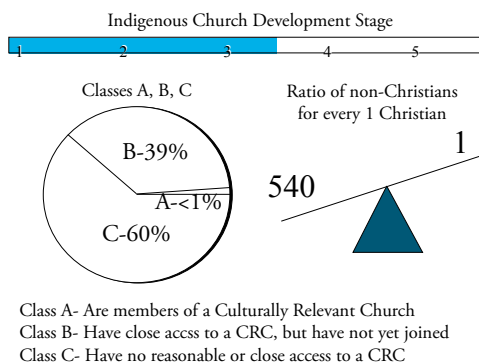
Scriptures: NT, OT

Ministry Tools: JRGT

Church Status: 3

Mission Status: 2

MS Subgroups: 10+



Identity: The Vietnamese are thought to have originated from various Mon-Khmer tribes which inhabited the southeastern areas of China. Forged into a semi-homogenous group by successive empires, their language and culture have been most significantly influenced by the Chinese, which ruled North Vietnam as a vassal state for a thousand years (200 B.C. to 938 A.D.).

Lifestyle: The Vietnamese lifestyle has been devastated by the global collapse of communism, and the complete destruction of the countryside environment during the Vietnam War. About 80% of the people live in rural towns and villages, surviving at a mere subsistence level. Contaminated water supplies and water-borne diseases are widespread throughout the country.

Customs: Each April the Vietnamese celebrate the Than Minh festival, at which time the spirits of ancestors are invoked through various offerings of

food, flowers and joss sticks. During a marriage celebration, the extended families on both sides will give large sums of money to help the young couple buy a new home or car.

Religion: Theravada Buddhism came to the Southern Vietnamese from India around the 2nd Century. In the North, Mahayana Buddhism was introduced by Chinese monks. Over the centuries Vietnamese Buddhism has absorbed elements of Daoism, Confucianism and Hinduism. Buddhist monks in Vietnam became famous for their activism against the French in the last century, organizing armed resistance movements and even setting themselves ablaze in protest.

Christian Outreach: Vietnamese Christians have endured one of the most oppressive governments in modern history. Although evangelical Christians are less than 1% of the population, they have made their presence known, and

have taken a stand for the gospel in the face of relentless persecution and restrictions on their activities. As a result, a strong house church movement, similar to the one in China, is emerging and growing rapidly.

How to Pray:

☞ Vietnamese Christians are concentrated in the South. Pray for the expansion of the gospel among the culturally distinct Northern Vietnamese.

☞ The government has allowed the printing of only 35,000 Bibles in Vietnamese. Ask the Lord to intervene at the highest levels of power in Vietnam.

☞ Pray for more opportunities for “tentmaking” missionaries to work in Vietnam, whether through business ventures or teaching English.

☞ Ask God to strengthen those believers imprisoned for their faith, and to raise up a new generation of leaders.

☞ Pray for the registered Vietnamese churches that they would not compromise in any way with the government, but would be effective agents for change.

Every year 580,000 Vietnamese die without Christ.